

## Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. PRC ARMS ARRIVE IN BOTSWANA?

EMBASSY GABORONE BELIEVES THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT AN EXPECTED SHIPMENT OF PRC ARMS DESTINED FOR BOTSWANA'S PARAMILITARY FORCES ARRIVED AMID TIGHT SECURITY ON JANUARY 2. ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE, THE GOB'S DECISION TO ACCEPT THE CHINESE ARMS OFFER CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO:

--THE INFLUENCE OF IAN KHAMA, THE PRESIDENT'S SON, WHO IS "POLITICALLY IMMATURE" BUT AMBITIOUS FOR A MILITARY COMMAND IN AN EXPANDED NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE; AND  
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--"RAPID DETERIORATION" OF THE SITUATION ON THE RHODESIAN BORDER OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE UNUSUAL SECRECY WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS SURROUNDED THIS AFFAIR INDICATES SOME SENSITIVITY TO THE INEVITABLE REPERCUSSIONS WHEN THE FACTS BECOME KNOWN.

(SECRET) GABORONE 1 (LIMDIS), 1/2.)

## 2. GREECE: PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY

TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THE REINTRODUCTION OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE, AMBASSADOR KUBISCH SEES THAT COUNTRY AS DELICATELY SUSPENDED BETWEEN A TURBULENT BYZANTINE PAST AND A STABLE WESTERN FUTURE. CRUCIAL TO THAT TRANSITION IS THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, WHOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS COULD BE DESTROYED AT ANY TIME BY A BLOWUP OF THE VOLATILE CONFRONTATION WITH TURKEY BUT WHO HAS SO FAR MANAGED TO:

--GOVERN, AS DE GAULLE ONCE SAID OF HIM, NINE MILLION GREEKS WHO BASICALLY DO NOT WANT TO BE GOVERNED;

--BRING THE ECONOMY BACK FROM NEAR COLLAPSE TO A FRAGILE BUT GROWING PROSPERITY;

--MAKE PROGRESS IN MODERNIZING SOME OF THE NATION'S CREAKY INSTITUTIONS;

--LEAD HIS COUNTRY DISCREETLY BACK TOWARD FULL AFFILIATION WITH NATO; AND

--PREVENT THE OMNIPRESENT DISPUTE WITH TURKEY FROM EXPLODING.

THE AMBASSADOR WARNS THAT RELATIONS WITH THE US WILL NOT BE SECRET

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EASY IN 1977, AS GREECE STRUGGLES TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO THE WESTERN TIES AND IDEALS ENVISIONED BY CARAMANLIS. HOWEVER, HE SEES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE US TO CONSOLIDATE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN RELATIONS, AND QUOTES PERICLES' ADMONITION TO THE ATHENIANS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WARS THAT WE HAVE LESS TO FEAR FROM OUR ADVERSARIES THAN FROM OUR OWN MISTAKES. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 1 (EXDIS), 1/1.)

## 3. JAPAN: DOING BUSINESS WITH THE NEW CABINET

IN A YEAR'S-END SURVEY OF FRICTIONS IN US-JAPANESE ECONOMIC RELATIONS, EMBASSY TOKYO CITES SEVERAL ACTIONS WHICH THE US COULD TAKE THAT WOULD SMOOTH AND STRENGTHEN OUR TIES WITH JAPAN. CONCLUDING THAT THE CURRENT BILATERAL TRADE IMBALANCE IN JAPAN'S FAVOR NEED NOT BE AN ISSUE SO LONG AS THE US GLOBAL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REMAINS SOUND, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IN 1977 WE:

--CONSIDER SELLING ALASKAN OIL TO JAPAN, WHICH BADLY NEEDS TO DIVERSIFY ITS ENERGY SOURCES;

--PRESS THE GOJ TO ADOPT EXPANSIONARY DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICIES AT HOME IN ORDER TO INCREASE DEMAND FOR OUR GOODS;

--SEEK TO DEFUSE SOME BILATERAL ISSUES BY ACTING ON THEM IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA;

--NOT ALLOW TENSIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO BE RESOLVED AT OUR EXPENSE;

--EASE UP ON EXPLOITING OUR VICTORIES ON FISHING RIGHTS, OVER WHICH THE JAPANESE ARE STILL SMARTING;  
AND

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--CONTINUE A TOUGH LINE ON SUCH STRICTLY BILATERAL ISSUES AS CIVIL AVIATION AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACCESS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 18918, 12/29.)

#### 4. SADAT: THE PERSONAL TOUCH

IN AN ASSESSMENT OF DECISION-MAKING IN EGYPT, EMBASSY CAIRO NOTES THAT SADAT:

--IS OBSESSED WITH HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE ARAB WORLD AND PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE US VIEW HIM AS THE PRINCIPAL ARAB SPOKESMAN;

--TENDS TO PERSONALIZE FOREIGN POLICY TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT RAPPORT, OR LACK OF RAPPORT, WITH ANOTHER NATION'S LEADER MAY SERIOUSLY AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS; AND

--HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH ADVISORS, PICKED PRIMARILY FOR THEIR "LOYALTY," WHO ARE OFTEN RELUCTANT TO BRIEF HIM ON ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS.

THE EMBASSY ALSO OBSERVES THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ARAB AFFAIRS, SADAT HAS GIVEN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY WIDE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IN FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HE EXERCISES TO THE HILT. (SECRET) CAIRO 17706, 12/23.)

#### 5. UAE: CABINET TROUBLE

EMBASSY ABU DHABI REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE SHAIKH MAKTUM'S ATTEMPTS TO FORM A CABINET COMPOSED OF

FORWARD-LOOKING TECHNOCRATS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY HIS  
FATHER, UAE VICE PRESIDENT SHAIKH RASHID. APPARENTLY

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FEARFUL THAT THE PROPOSED CABINET WOULD CURTAIL HIS FREE-  
DOM OF ACTION, RASHID WOULD PREFER INSTEAD ONE MADE UP OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADITIONAL FAMILY GROUPS. WITH THE  
SITUATION THUS AT AN IMPASSE, UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID,  
WHO SYMPATHIZES WITH MAKTUM, MAY STEP IN AND APPOINT THE  
CABINET HIMSELF. (SECRET) ABU DHABI 6, 1/2.)

6. IRAQI GROUP SEEKS TO VISIT KURDS IN US

USINT BAGHDAD REPORTS THAT AN IRAQI DELEGATION HEADED BY  
MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AKRAWI PLANS TO VISIT THE US IN  
JANUARY. ITS PURPOSE IS TO MEET WITH SOME KURDS IN THE  
US AND INFORM THEM OF WHAT ACTIONS IRAQ HAS TAKEN WITH  
RESPECT TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGION. THE GOI HAS OFFICIALLY  
INFORMED USINT OF THE DELEGATION'S TRAVEL PLANS AND HAS  
REQUESTED SECURITY PROTECTION FOR THE GROUP WHILE IN THE  
US.

PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S COMMENT: THE DELEGATION MEMBERS AP-  
PEAR TO BE PRO-GOVERNMENT KURDS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO  
ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH KURDISH EXILES IN EUROPE AND  
THE US. I RECOMMEND WE ISSUE THE VISAS AND RESPOND POSI-  
TIVELY TO THEIR REQUEST FOR SECURITY PROTECTION. (CONFI-  
DENTIAL) BAGHDAD 1938, 12/31.)  
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